

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0025] of the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The carton may, if desired, be provided with means to facilitate the initial opening thereof. For example, a tearable band or strip of the kind known in the art may be provided which, when pulled, produces a tear in the side walls of the carton, preferably a continuous, generally transverse tear in at least three of the side walls, thereby allowing easy access to the stored contents. The corresponding carton blank may therefore be provided with a pre-cut band ~~50~~ defined by cuts or perforations cut in the sheet material. The pre-cut band preferably spans the carton blank in the transverse direction. A grip tab ~~54~~ may be provided to facilitate a user in pulling the tearable band. A carton blank formed from a fibrous sheet material, such as cardboard, may be provided with a pre-cut band ~~50~~ possibly and running in generally the direction of the constituent fibres to permit a clean tear along the pre-cut edges of the tearable band.